fruit is God's fruit. The kingdom is God's; and the fruit of the kingdom, therefore, is that life-sustaining substance provided by Jehovah for the benefit of his creatures; to wit, the truth concerning God and his purposes. That the truth is Jehovah's there cannot be the slightest doubt. "Thy word is truth." (John 17:17) To know God and his purposes through Christ Jesus means life, and it is the fruit of the kingdom that brings life and sustains life. Christ Jesus and his body members, all one, are like one tree or vine. As a tree or vine holds forth or holds up the fruit upon which men feed and grow strong, even so Christ and those who abide in him hold forth the fruit of the kingdom, the vital, sustaining truth which is provided by Jehovah and given to sustain the life of creatures.

[21] The word "bear" used by Jesus concerning the fruit does not mean to produce or grow fruit. It means to carry, to uphold, to move, and to bring forth and serve. In verse two of the fifteenth chapter of John the word "bear" is used exactly as the words "bringeth forth" are used in verse five. Concerning the same fruit, the words of Jesus concerning the kingdom are these: "The kingdom of God shall be . . . given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof." Without a question of doubt Jesus referred to the same fruits mentioned by him in the fifteenth chapter of John, and again lays down the rule that those who will be of and possess the kingdom are the ones that bring forth the fruits thereof and that no one can be of the kingdom who does not bring forth or bear the fruits thereof.

HOW DONE

[22] How can a Christian bear or bring forth fruits of the kingdom? The Scriptural answer is, by obeying the commandments of God to preach the gospel of the kingdom. The commission that Jehovah bestows upon all who are brought into the body of Christ is to preach the gospel of the kingdom. (Isa. 61:1-3) These must (1) preach or bring forth the fruits of the kingdom to those who are of Zion and who are God's people. These need the life-sustaining substance, the fruit of the kingdom of God, and it is the privilege and duty of those anointed in Christ to carry this fruit to one another. Hence by love they are serving one another. (2) The anointed are commissioned to tell the good news of the kingdom to all who are teachable and who desire to be taught.

[23] Jehovah God is the King Eternal. How many know that fact? Not very many. To his anointed ones Jehovah says: "Ye are my witnesses, . . . that I am God," besides whom there is none other. (Isa. 43:10, 12) He sends forth his anointed to give testimony of this fact, and this is bearing the fruit of the kingdom by telling the people how the blessings will come to them.

[24] Many have made a covenant to do the will of God and all such are begotten of Jehovah and are called to the kingdom. The greater number have either failed or refused to respond to the call. They have said in substance: 'We will grow sweet and good and meet together and study and meditate upon God's Word, and thus we will develop the Christ-like character, and thus continue until we are ripe, and then God will take us into the kingdom.' They do not even respond to the call for the kingdom and present themselves a living sacrifice unto God. A small number do respond to and accept the call and go forth with a zeal peculiar to the Lord's house, showing their devotion to Jehovah.

[25] The days of pruning arrive and the separation begins and progresses. It is well known from the facts that from about 1875 to 1918 all the Lord's people walked together. In 1918 and 1919, at the coming of the Lord to his temple, all were subjected to a severe test. Why did the Lord do that? The answer is that this was a severe pruning experience, that the faithful might be made manifest and might bring forth more fruit. (Vs. 2) Shortly following the end of the World War, and the coming of the Lord to his temple, he gave the commandment to the pruned ones, or disciplined ones, and to these said: "This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations: and then shall the end come."—Matt. 24:14.

[26] Those who had been faithful and diligent in obeying the commandments of the Lord and had thus shown their love for God and for Christ, upon them the Lord then bestowed even greater love. To these approved ones the invitation was given to 'enter into the joy of the Lord', and this is in harmony with the words of Jesus: "As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you; continue ye in my love. If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full." (Vss. 9-11) God has taken Jesus and his body members into partnership with him for the kingdom. Those on earth have some work to do, and they are made members of the "faithful and wise servant". Their work is then to bring forth or bear the fruits of the kingdom, and this they do by diligently looking after the interests of the kingdom.

WHO IS DOING IT

[27] The nation of Israel fell because it did not bring forth the fruits of the kingdom. "Organized Christianity," or "Christendom", has failed because it has brought forth no fruits of the kingdom, but, on the contrary, has brought forth a death-dealing corrupt fruit of Satan's organization. All human schemes are contrary to God's kingdom; therefore corrupt. During the past fifty years many who have agreed to do